European Community Commentary

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Renegotiation: the Commons debate on Europe

The debate in the Commons on the motion for the adjournment on 11 June 1974 was on Europe. It was opened by James Callaghan, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who in his speech and in response to points raised during the debate amplified the statements already made on the Government's approach to renegotiation. The information which emerged is outlined below.

The role of Parliament

Mr. Callaghan opened the debate with a discussion of Parliament's function *vis-à-vis* the Community: 'where it stands in this matter, where it should stand, and what is the rightful role that we should ask it to assume'. He announced four changes intended to ensure that Parliament is kept informed of developments in and concerning the Community. First there were to be more debates, both on renegotiation itself and on the EEC's progress in general. Secondly a slot restricted to questions on the Community was to be inserted into Question Time. Thirdly, Mr. Callaghan undertook in future to make a prior announcement to the House on the Community's next month's business†. And fourthly the Government would – starting, it was hoped, in time for debate after the Summer Recess – be producing a report every six months on affairs inside the Community and on the Government's attitude and reactions to them.

Mr. Callaghan reminded the House of the procedure already established for Parliamentary examination of Community proposals. He outlined the Government's approach to the Committee on EEC Secondary Legislation – the Committee set up by the House to scrutinise Commission proposals for Community legislation, and to draw attention to any deemed important enough for the House to debate before binding decisions are made in Brussels* – and promised that:

'As soon as the Government receive the texts from the Commission on its proposals, we shall try to transmit them to the Committee within 48 hours so that the Committee will know what it is that the Commission are proposing to do. That will be followed as quickly as possible by a memorandum, either stating the Government's view or giving information to the Committee on a purely factual basis about the nature of the proposals so that the Committee itself can take this into account when it is deciding on whether to call Ministers or persons before it. That memorandum will be the responsibility of a Minister, either my hon. Friend the Minister of State or one of the Departmental Ministers responsible for the particular business concerned.

'So the Committee will have the information on which to make up its mind about whether the issues are important before those issues reach the stage of decision in the Commission and it will be for the Committee to advise the House . . .

'Because of the lapse of time, the Committee already has a substantial backlog of proposals.* I do not know how it will get through them all, but once it has overcome the backlog, although it will mean continuing hard work for the members of the Committee, it will be in a position, if it is provided with the services, to be able to report to the House on any matter that the Commission proposes to take a decision upon and that it thinks the House should know about. Obviously, there will be a number of small matters, but the Committee will, I am sure, develop its experience and will not necessarily trouble the House with them. But the principle is important if the sovereignty of this House is to be maintained in the areas in which we want to see it maintained.'

Asked for an assurance that no subject referred to the House by the Committee would be finalised in Brussels until the House had a chance to discuss it, Mr. Callaghan said:

'I hope that that will normally be the case. It would be against the policy we are following that it should not be the case. If there is an urgent matter about which we know the Commission wants to take a decision in, say, a fortnight or so, the House will probably feel it would not be improper if the Minister got in touch with the Committee and said: "This issue is urgent, will you please consider it urgently and tell the House whether you regard it as of importance that is should be held up or not?" Then we shall have to consider it again. It is possible to put a reserve on.§ That would have to be the case. We do not want to put reserves unnecessarily on small issues that are not of particular concern.'

As an example of this procedure, Mr. Callaghan referred to a draft Decision (on guide lines for economic policy) which the Committee had already recommended should not be allowed to proceed within the Council of Ministers until the House had debated it.

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† Roy Hattersley, Minister of State, Foreign Office, made the first statement on 26 June. See p. 16 of this issue.

* For the terms of reference and the membership of the Lords and Commons committees, see *European Community Commentary* No. 12, p. 7.

* Speaking later in the debate, Mr. John Davies, Chairman of the Committee, confirmed the 'vast amount of work coming through in the form of proposals and papers from the Community'. The Committee had a backlog of about 200 proposals for legislation and upwards of 100 other documents, very many of them 'of first rate importance to the House'.

§ Any Member State may seek to place a reserve on an item under discussion in the Community if it is not ready to take a decision and wishes to consider the item further.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer had accordingly put 'a heavy reserve' on the subject in the Council so that no decision would be taken for the time being.

The Budget

Dealing with the Government's attitude to the issues under renegotiation, Mr. Callaghan spoke first about the Community Budget†. He said that he had told the Council that the impact of the present system on the United Kingdom was unfair, and that the terms of entry were fundamentally inequitable. He continued:

'It is in the interests of every country to find a solution that takes account of the economic differences between States. If an essential requirement of our renegotiations is to be met, we must ask the Community to find such a solution. I said that because our estimate is that by 1980 the net contribution of Britain to the Community will be between 700 million and 800 million units of account. The unit of account is based on the dollar, and that could mean £300 million plus, depending on the rate of exchange . . .

'The basic principle on which we insist in these negotiations is that it is not right that resources should be transferred from the less-well-off to the better-off in the Community. At this stage in the Community's development, the Government are not asking that net resources should be transferred from the better-off countries to the less-well-off countries, but we are certainly not intending to accept the reverse; namely, that there should be a net transfer from the less-well-off to the better-off countries. That is what is happening . . . There will be a net transfer to countries which are better off than ourselves. That is a fundamentally inequitable position. It is one that was accepted, but we cannot accept it now. It has to be renegotiated.'

Mr. Callaghan added later that:

'Because the Council proceeds on a consensus it would have been possible for an amendment to be tabled to stop any reconsideration of this matter. But that reconsideration was not stopped. The Commission has been asked to make an inventory of what has been happening to Community finances in the past, and also to look ahead to Community finances between now and 1980. It will report back on the facts as it finds them, and the Council of Ministers will discuss this matter to see what solution can be arrived at. I do not know whether we shall get a solution. I do not know whether a veto will be imposed. All that has happened so far is that we have made a minor piece of procedural progress which is worth while. The Commission has not said "No". It has not said "Yes", either, and there is no euphoria on my part in terms of the tough months of negotiation that lie ahead.'

CAP and the Commonwealth and developing countries

On the Common Agricultural Policy Mr. Callaghan set his comments against the background of what he had said in his statement to the Council:

'I said that criticism of the CAP has been particularly strong in Britain both because we are a large importer of food and because membership of the EEC has weakened our ties with traditional suppliers. The major areas in which the United Kingdom wishes to secure improvements are in the cost of the CAP, which should be reduced in real terms, and there should be speedy improvements in the marketing regimes for some major commodities. It does not make sense to take a large quantity of British beef off the market, freeze it, put it in store and then watch the price of the remainder go up, to be followed in turn by a reduction in the amount the housewife buys. Those were the simple unadulterated truths that I was trying to utter to the Council of Ministers last week.

'The changes we propose would do much to ensure that the CAP is not an instrument of excessive protectionism or a threat to world trade. There is a strong case for improved terms of access for many kinds of foodstuffs from countries outside the Community. We need satisfactory and continuing arrangements with New Zealand, and I spelt them out.

'As regards sugar, we remain firmly committed to the offer of access on fair terms to 1.4 million tons of sugar from the developing countries of the Commonwealth after the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement expires. It is our view that everything I have suggested is compatible with the basic principles of the CAP and with the Treaties . . .

'Apart from those major changes that affect Commonwealth countries, what else? I called for an extension of tariff quotas for a small number of products of importance, for example, some canned foods. Then, as a permanent solution, in the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations we could include an offer to make substantial reductions of tariffs on these products as well as on certain industrial products of importance to those countries.

'As regards the developing countries in the Commonwealth, attention is concentrated at present on the group known as the associable countries or ACP countries – African, Caribbean and Pacific States. Negotiations have been going on between them and the Community for some time to make a new agreement. There is likely to be later next month a meeting of Ministers of the Community and the ACP countries in which we shall certainly take part. What I call for is the need for free entry for their industrial products and the need for generous treatment for their agricultural products, including, if necessary, tariffs on levy-free quotas. There is a need for evolution of Community burdens of aid. That view has already been put forward in the Development Council by my right hon. Friend the Minister of Overseas Development. We need to take into account all the developing countries, not just the ACP countries, and to have a more balanced distribution of trade on a world basis.

'For the countries of South Asia we need to improve the Community's generalised preference scheme and to implement the Declaration of Intent. We need special regimes for Bangladesh and India in respect of jute and coir.'

Turning, later in his speech, to links with the Commonwealth, the Secretary of State said that the UK's accession to the Community had weakened these links and had resulted in the Commonwealth's diversifying its markets. It had found different markets, and for that reason, among others, New Zealand, for example, had not been able to deliver her full quotas to this country. He had consulted members of the Commonwealth on this:

'We have sent out telegrams and messages, and we have their reactions. A number of members of the Commonwealth feel that the spread of diversification has gone so far that not much can be pulled back. Others have ties of blood sentiment and history with us and would like to see a pulling back if it could be secured. Others, frankly, are more concerned to see their relations with the Community broadened than to keep a market with Britain.'

In answer to a question, Mr. Callaghan confirmed that it would be possible to renegotiate these matters:

'We are discussing with the Commonwealth countries, and we will continue to do so, whether they are willing to re-enter into long-term arrangements with us or with the Community as a whole, and at what level of prices they will be willing to do so. That is an essential part of our discussions.'

Regional and industrial policy

Mr. Callaghan stated that he had told the Council that the UK required powers to be able to pursue effective regional and industrial policies:

'We recognise the value of rules within the Community to ensure that one country in attempting to solve its own problems does not create problems for the others. We fear that our plans for British industry, including the steel industry, may be hampered by unduly restrictive interpretations of the Treaties, and as part of the renegotiation we shall seek assurances on this score.'

The Government had told the Council that co-ordination of rules on regional aid had a useful part to play:

'The rules must be broad enough in scope to cover all types of aid that may be required. It will be necessary from time to time, arising out of our past experience in this country, for us to vary the level of aid and the definition of areas where particular problems arise, such as steel closures. We may also need to exceed whatever ceilings are agreed. These matters are essential to us as an element of the renegotiation.'

VAT

On harmonisation of VAT the Secretary of State made the following comment:

'The first stage is under discussion in the Community, and there are draft proposals about coverage. We take the line that, provided the Community accepts zero rating for food and other items, we would consider favourably the harmonisation of coverage. I must say that no agreement is yet in sight, and there are no proposals for harmonisation of rates. I have no intention of yielding on the point relating to zero rating. It is not conceivable and would not be in accord with what we said in our manifesto which was carried into our election programme. That is the position on harmonisation. The proposals have been put forward and we are not yielding on the matter of zero rating for particular items.'

Capital movements

On capital movements, Mr. Callaghan reminded the House that the subject had been covered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech on 26 March:

'My right hon. Friend said that he had altered the arrangements for investment in the European Economic Community. Arrangements had been made in the 1972 Budget under which firms were able to obtain a ration of £1 million of official exchange for a project in any one year. My right hon. Friend altered that situation. He said that:

' "for the time being such investment must be financed, in the main, without official exchange.

† See also the item on page 3 of this issue, outlining the existing arrangements for financing the Community Budget.

The existing rules for investment in the non-sterling area will therefore apply to the EEC also. We have informed the Commission of the European Communities and the other EEC Members of what we are doing." – (Official Report, 26 March 1974; Vol. 871, c.287)

'Articles 109 and 108 both provide for action of this kind to be taken. The Chancellor took such action and it has been discussed in the Commission. Therefore, in terms of capital movements, in so far as we are dealing with either direct or indirect investment, there need be no concern. If the reference is to the flows of oil moneys which are now saturating the markets and overflowing all our boundaries, nobody has yet found an answer how to control that situation. That is one of the big problems that face us at present.'

No renegotiation of the Treaties

Mr. Callaghan emphasised that the Government did not propose to renegotiate the Treaties:

'When I started out on this road, I thought that we might have to. I thought that it would be necessary to propose some amendments. To cover myself and some of my more sceptical right hon. and hon. Friends, I put in a reservation saying that I may have to propose some alterations to the Treaties. It stands in my second speech* (to the Council). I said that the basic document was that of 1 April 1974† (to the Council). That is the basic document in which we say that I may have to propose changes in the Treaties. But why should we go out of our way to make trouble if our objective can be secured without it? . . . If we have to renegotiate, why should we adopt a process requiring the ratification of nine Parliaments, including our own, with all the prospects which might ensue, if it can be done without?'

* For text see *European Community Commentary* No. 12, pp. 1-5.

† For text see *European Community Commentary* No. 10, pp.1-2, 12.

Renegotiating to succeed

The aim of the renegotiations was to bring about the changes in Community policy which would enable the United Kingdom to remain a Community Member:

'We are not working to fail,' said Mr. Callaghan. 'I do not know whether we shall succeed. I have never made a secret about that. I do not know with what answer we shall eventually return. I believe it would be in European interests if we succeeded. It would be in our interests if we succeeded. If we cannot succeed we shall have a hard decision to take, and the British people will have to be put fully in the picture about it. I believe that it is on this basis that we must conduct the whole of our discussions.'

The European Community Budget

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in his statement to the Council of Ministers on 1 April said that one of the United Kingdom's main objectives in the renegotiation of the terms of entry into the European Community was to secure fundamental changes in the Community's Budget. At the Council of Ministers on 4 June he set out the reasons why the UK regarded the present system of Community Finance as unfair to the United Kingdom. In the light of the Foreign Secretary's statements, readers may like to be reminded of the existing arrangements for financing the Community Budget.

Expenditure

About 75 per cent of the Community Budget expenditure goes on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Most of this is spent by the Guarantee Section which is responsible for market support. In general farm incomes are guaranteed by the establishment of minimum market prices. These prices are maintained by the provision of subsidies to assure outlets (as exports or internally) for surplus produce or by support buying of surpluses. Some CAP money is also spent on the structural reform of agriculture and is used to increase efficiency in areas of small farms and labour-intensive agriculture. The European Social Fund, the Food Aid Programme and certain Euratom research and development projects are also financed from the Budget. About 5 per cent of the Budget is spent on the administration of the Community's institutions, such as the Commission and Assembly.

Adoption of the annual Budget

Each year the Commission prepares a preliminary draft Budget from estimates drawn up by each Community institution and under the Treaty of Rome has to submit this to the Council by 1 September. The Council then establishes the draft Budget after making any modifications in consultation with the Commission. The draft Budget has then to be placed before the Assembly not later than 5 October each year. Up to and including the 1974 Budget, the Assembly has been able to propose modifications to the draft Budget, but the Council has had the last word (except, by agreement, on the Assembly's own expenditure) and may accept or reject the Assembly's modifications. As from the 1975 Budget the Council will have the final control of expenditure necessarily resulting from the Treaty of Rome or from acts adopted in accordance therewith. The Assembly will have a limited control over the remaining expenditure.

Community revenues

At present Community revenues come from two sources – financial contributions from Member States and 'own resources'. Under the 'own resources' system, revenues collected by Member States in pursuance of Community policies are transferred direct to the Community. The revenues involved are the levies, premiums, additional or compensatory amounts and other duties charged as part of the CAP, as well as receipts from the Common Customs Tariff (CCT). Ten per cent of the amount of 'own resources' collected is refunded to the Member States concerned to cover costs of collection. This system of financing was laid down in the 'Own Resources' Decision of 21 April 1970. This Decision provides that during the period of transition for the original six Member States, ending on 31 December 1974, any deficit of revenue on the Community Budget not covered by own resources should be made up by contributions from Member States in accordance with the scales laid down in the 'Own Resources' Decision.

From 1975, new arrangements apply for financing that part of the Community Budget expenditure not covered by agricultural levies and customs duties. If there has been agreement on a uniform assessment basis for value added tax, the additional revenues will be obtained by applying a rate not exceeding 1 per cent to this. If a uniform assessment basis has not been agreed, the additional revenue will be provided by contributions from Member States based on their share of Community GNP.

Transitional arrangements for the United Kingdom

The Treaty of Accession makes special arrangements for the new Member States, including the United Kingdom, in respect of their contributions to the Community Budget for their transitional period to 1980. The effect of the existing arrangements is that the United Kingdom's share of the Budget will rise from 8.78 per cent in 1973 to 19.24 per cent in 1977. In 1978 the United Kingdom's contribution would be based partly on our percentage contribution in 1977 and partly on the percentage contribution which we would have paid in 1977 if the full 'own resources' system had been applied to the United Kingdom. In 1979 the contribution would be based on a similar formula. From 1980 the United Kingdom would, under existing arrangements, be liable to contribute under the full 'own resources' system.

Renegotiation: Improving the Community's agricultural policy

In his statement to the Council of Foreign Ministers on 4 June*, giving details of the matters which the United Kingdom finds unsatisfactory in its membership of the Communities and which it wishes to change, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, James Callaghan, proposed that the matters at issue should be dealt with separately by the relevant Councils. Trade matters and regional and industrial issues would be dealt with by the Council of Foreign Ministers. Budgetary problems could be taken on the agenda of either the Foreign Ministers Council or the Finance Ministers Council, as appropriate. The Development Council would deal with most aspects of aid. And the Common Agricultural Policy would be considered in the Agricultural Council.

Following this procedure, Frederick Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has now explained to the Council of Agricultural Ministers, at their meeting in Luxembourg on 18 June, the UK's 'ideas and proposals for the improvement of the Common Agricultural Policy and certain related matters'. The text of his statement is given below.

* For text see *European Community Commentary*, No. 12, pp. 1-5.

1. Mr. Chairman,
Thank you for this opportunity to explain in more detail the UK's ideas and proposals for the improvement of the Common Agricultural Policy and certain related matters. In his statement of 4th June to the Council of Foreign Ministers about renegotiation Mr. Callaghan outlined the areas of difficulty. I should like to follow up today what he said because it is only in this Council where the agricultural problems can be properly considered and dealt with; and I am confident that this will be done.

2. This confidence is certainly not because the proposals I have to make are minor ones: we regard them as being of vital importance. It arises, however, because I think all my colleagues will recognise that they are aimed at improving the operation of the CAP, to increase its effectiveness in serving Community economy and Community agriculture.

3. Before I do so I would like my colleagues to keep in mind three considerations which are applicable to everything I shall say. First, we all know that the CAP is already under severe strain. It is under strain from the currency changes within the Community and from the acute and world-wide problem of inflation. Next, I share with everyone in this room a common responsibility to make the best possible use of our agricultural resources. And, finally, we have opportunity – if we can seize it – to emerge from these difficulties with a stronger and better agricultural policy. In that sense I am trying to identify Community problems and to suggest Community solutions.

4. Turning now to the substance, my proposals concern the operation and certain mechanisms of the CAP, some of our present market regimes, and, more generally, the Community's approach to trading relationships with Commonwealth and other countries.

Operation and mechanisms of the CAP

5. I have important points to make on the general operation and mechanisms of the CAP. First, I am concerned with the absence of any clear criteria when we come to the annual determination of prices. I know that both the Commission and the Council have begun to feel the lack of any firm basis of information and known standards against which to start framing price proposals. The Commission have suggested already that price proposals should take account, first, of the needs of the modern and efficient farm and, second, of the supply/demand situation for particular commodities. We want to see this concept developed as a firm basis for future price fixing, not as a series of automatic formulae, but as a more detailed groundwork for specific price proposals. In my view, the Council should ask the Commission when making its annual price proposals to set out the data on which the application of these two criteria has been based and to show how their application is related to the actual proposals made.

6. I recognise that prices which are genuinely determined in relation to the costs of the modern farm could cause difficulties for some smaller and less viable farms. But it is wrong that such problems should dominate our pricing policy. As the Commission has pointed out, these problems ought to be dealt with in other ways – in ways that are more specifically directed towards the problems that particular groups of farmers actually face.

7. Finally, on price policy I think that the Council should be ready to recognise the disparities which actually exist between the market circumstances in different parts of the Community. These disparities are already reflected in a general way in the systems of compensatory amounts. In these circumstances, I suggest that the Council should accept as a possibility the fixing of prices for particular parts of the Community at levels below those for the Community as a whole. I must stress here that I am in no way seeking to undermine the principle of common pricing. I realise that the wholesale use of such a measure would do so – and would also create difficulties for farmers in the areas of the Community where it applied. That is not my intention. What I have in mind is that in certain circumstances and on particular occasions there could well be a case for the application of lower prices; and the right to make such a case should be recognised. There are precedents for this approach – for example the negative corrective for Germany and the Benelux countries on skimmed milk powder, the levy reduction on maize and other feed grains for Italy and the beef price agreed for the UK last March. I do not suggest that this should be a unilateral option for any Member State to adopt at will. It would be subject to agreement in the annual price package in just the same way as all other price decisions.

8. If we can get pricing policy right, we should by that means alone reduce the problem of surpluses. But any system of annual price determination will still run the risk of occasionally setting prices too high and so encouraging overproduction. I recognise how difficult it is to reduce prices formally in our annual determinations. There is a risk that in these circumstances surpluses of the commodities to which permanent intervention applies will pile up inexorably. What we need is a more flexible manner of operating intervention for these commodities – I am thinking particularly of cereals and milk products – so that as surpluses increase there is an automatic mechanism for reducing the incentive to the farmer to produce and offer to the intervention agencies. The Commission have, I know, been exercised by this problem for some time. I should like to suggest how it might be met.

9. For cereals the best method might be to adopt a system whereby only part of the full intervention price were paid on delivery. The rest would be held back until the end of the season and the amount varied according to the total volume of sales into intervention. For dairy products the intervention price itself might be reduced in stages if the Community's stocks rose above predetermined levels. These are not the only possible mechanisms and I should like to see the various possibilities considered: our aim should be to find the most practical and effective mechanism.

10. Even with an improved intervention system, however, there is bound to be an accumulation of intervention stocks from time

to time. In my view a policy for disposing of these stocks in an effective and acceptable way should be an integral part of our support system. Here too I should like to suggest that we adopt a general principle: that the Community consumer should be given priority. Our basic aim should be to restore to Community consumers in general – if market circumstances allow this – or to particular classes of consumer the produce that has been taken off the market in times of surplus. We should have recourse to the export of intervention stocks at subsidised prices only as a last resort, and where this can be done without damage to international trading relations.

11. Before I turn to the market organisations for specific commodities, I should like to make one last general point. I recognise that much progress has been made in improving the control of expenditure under the CAP. I know the Commission are very conscious of the need to build on this so as to make financial control really effective. But the Commission need the support of the Council. The Council in turn needs, when it considers proposals for action, to have before it detailed financial estimates and the economic data on which they are based. And we need to have regular reports on the progress of expenditure.

Market organisations for specific commodities

12. I should like to turn now to the market organisations for specific commodities. Perhaps I could first mention two commodities where the Council has already agreed to reach decisions on new systems of support before April 1975. I refer to olive oil and durum wheat. We shall try to play our part in the discussion and development of systems for these commodities which should take full account of their importance for particular regions of the Community and which should give support effectively and economically.

13. But I think my colleagues would agree that the major commodity problem we face at this time concerns beef. No one would deny that the beef regime is under severe strain. I believe that strain comes from the fact that the central feature of our support system is permanent intervention. This is a recent innovation and I do not think it was ever intended to have the importance it has now assumed. I believe it to be the wrong way of giving the producer the support he must have. It tries to meet the problem of relatively heavy supply by choking off demand and filling the intervention stores with a product of little value. I believe we must find a better way.

14. What I suggest is that we should revert to the position of a year or so ago, when intervention was used only as a measure of last resort. In place of permanent intervention, and to ensure the producer an adequate return not derived wholly from the market, I would suggest two other types of measure:

First, a variable premium financed by FEOGA and paid on slaughter (or, where conditions permit its effective administration, on liveweight sale for eventual slaughter). This method of sustaining producers' returns should have the effect of preventing undesirable fluctuations in beef production.

Frederick Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who put the British case for improving the Community's agricultural policy to the Council of Ministers on 4 June.

Secondly, there should be a system of production subsidies to offer permanent incentives to the rearing of calves for beef production.

15. Finally, a simplified import regime should be introduced, as the Commission has proposed, which would give reasonable access to imports from third countries while adequately safeguarding the Community market. The essential aim should be to introduce the maximum stability in the internal markets of the Community and, at the same time, the maximum certainty in international trade.

16. A beef regime of this sort would be better for producers and consumers alike. I propose, therefore, that the Commission should be asked to examine these ideas with a view to the introduction of a new regime on these lines in time for the next marketing year. There is real urgency about this. We must all recognise that we do face the most acute short-term problems in the beef sector. It could well be that further Community action will be required on an interim basis during the coming weeks. If so we must be ready to act quickly and effectively.

Trading relations with Commonwealth and other countries

17. I come now to the question of the Community's trading relations with Commonwealth and other suppliers of foodstuffs. The Community has already accepted obligations in the Treaty of Accession in two particular areas – New Zealand dairy products and Commonwealth sugar – and perhaps I could deal with these first.

18. For New Zealand, Article 5 of Protocol 18 already provides for a review during 1975. I would propose that we initiate this review this year. This will enable the Community to consider the future arrangements for New Zealand imports against the background of the way the Protocol has operated so far. New Zealand has, of course, raised the separate question of the current c.f. prices and I hope that the Commission's examination of this matter will be ready soon. For future years we wish to propose that there should be provision for carrying out an annual review of prices under the Protocol. We shall also wish to discuss arrangements for access for New Zealand beyond the five years for which the Protocol allocates specific quantities. For butter, we should wish to propose continuing access for New Zealand of up to about 140,000 tons annually – the quantity for which provision is already made for 1977 – for the five years 1978/1982, with provision allowing the continuation of arrangements beyond that date. We are also considering possible methods of dealing with cheese, having regard to what is said in Protocol 18.

19. For Commonwealth sugar, the arrangements under Protocol 17 of the Treaty are due to expire at the end of this year and to be succeeded by new arrangements under Protocol 22. The Council will be considering this in the normal course of its work, together with proposals for the domestic beet sugar regime. Meanwhile it is becoming a matter of urgency to assure supplies for 1975 in what may prove to be a very tight market situation. I should like to stress just three points now. First, we continue to support the basic proposition, which underlies the Commission's proposals, that the Community should offer to import annually 1.4 million tonnes of sugar from developing countries on fair terms. Secondly, we wish to see an internal regime for sugar beet which gives much greater incentive than at present to the efficient producer, and so permits an expansion of production in countries like my own which are well suited to beet sugar production. Thirdly, in view of the present and prospective tight supply situation, the Community will need for some years an assured supply of Australian cane sugar to maintain a reasonable balance between supply and demand.

Third country access

20. I come now to the question of access for supplies of certain foodstuffs from third countries to Community markets. I shall not call into question the principle of Community preference; but there are some areas – particularly where Community production is small and we are inevitably importers – where the present degree of preference seems unnecessary. In these areas we have the opportunity to benefit Community consumers, to help the fight against inflation, and to assist the expansion of international trade without damage to the legitimate interests of Community producers.

21. I am concerned here with two categories of products: those subject to variable levies and those subject to tariffs. The main levy item which I have in mind is North American hard or strong wheat. This is a different product from Community soft wheat and is an essential element in British bread production. The Community cereals regime at present provides for the application to strong wheat of the levies calculated on the basis of soft wheat prices. We think that a special entry price should be set for strong wheat and that levies should be based on a comparison of strong wheat offer prices with this special entry price. Similarly we think revised arrangements could be introduced for

wheat flour and lard which would benefit the consumer without damaging Community producer interests.

22. Coming to tariff items, there are many products on which Community tariffs are high in relation to the interests which they protect. I need not go into details today. This can be done at official level. However, to mention just two or three examples, I think that the Community should reduce some of the very high duties which at present apply to some canned fruit and canned fish products, many of them not produced in any significant quantity within the Community, and improve the import arrangements for palmoil, of which the Community is a major importer.

23. Some of the items I have in mind could best be considered in the context of current negotiations – either the GATT multilateral trade negotiations or the Community's own negotiations with third countries, such as the Mediterranean states and the ACP states, or in the course of improvement of the Community's GSP. For other items the Community should, to its own advantage, adjust its import regime now. It would of course take credit later in the multilateral trade negotiations for any such autonomous decisions. I should like, however, to emphasise the importance which the UK attaches to a liberal and flexible Community approach in all these negotiations where we can achieve improvements to the benefit of Community consumers and international trade without putting in question the essential protection of the CAP.

Procedure

24. I regret it has been necessary to speak at such length in putting before my colleagues the areas of difficulty which need to be examined. It may be some consolation that everything I have mentioned could, and in many instances would, be due to come before them at some stage in the ordinary course of our business. The need for improvements in the operation and mechanisms of the CAP is the subject of the Commission's memorandum of last October to the Council – I have simply added substantial proposals and suggestions for the examination to which this Council is already committed. On marketing regimes for olive oil and durum wheat we have already agreed to reach decisions, on beef we are all aware of the need for improvements. Future arrangements for sugar, both internally and under Protocol 22, must be settled this year and already have assumed some urgency. As regards New Zealand, I have suggested that the review contemplated under Protocol 18 should be initiated this year. Finally, the various proposals I have made in relation to the liberalisation of other items in third country trade would for the most part come before us anyway in the course of the GATT multilateral negotiations, or of our own negotiations with the Mediterranean and other states or in the context of the Community's GSP.

I would suggest, finally, that the matters I have raised require no special forum but can be considered by the Commission and the Council within the framework of our usual procedures. They should not, therefore, impede the course of our on-going business. Indeed I hope my colleagues will accept that, for the most part, the problems I have outlined arise in sectors where as a Community we already face the need to reach solutions as a matter of some urgency.

For today, however, all I ask formally is their acceptance that the proposals I have made should be examined seriously and with reasonable expedition in the context of on-going business during the course of the year. If I have this acceptance we will participate constructively and at all levels in finding solutions.

Eliminating technical barriers to trade within the EEC

Article 100: check-list of draft and adopted Directives

Below we print the usual quarterly revision of our check-list showing the Directives proposed, approved or adopted under Article 100 of the Treaty of Rome. The last list was published in the April 1974 issue of *European Community Commentary*.

A word on publication of draft and adopted Directives. The 'L' (Legislation) series of the EEC *Official Journal* carries the texts of adopted Directives, and the 'C' (Information and Notices) series carries the texts of Commission proposals as first submitted to the Council. Preliminary drafts (which are really nothing more than working documents for Commission Working Groups), and Council revisions of Commission proposals, are *not* published. In the list below, the dates of issues of the *Official Journal* containing texts of adopted and proposed Directives are given where they are known. The Journal has appeared in English only since 1 January 1973, but the English texts of adopted Directives published before then (together with all other pre-accession Community legislation) were issued in a series of Special Editions of the *Official Journal* in December 1972.

The *Official Journal* is published by HM Stationery Office.

Subject	Reference of Directive or latest draft received	Status (where applicable)
Motor vehicles		
Type approval	70/156/EEC of 6.2.70	Directive (OJ 23.2.70)
Rear registration plates	70/222/EEC of 20.3.70	Directive (OJ 6.4.70)
Noise levels, silencers	70/157/EEC of 6.2.70	Directive (OJ 23.2.70)
	Adapted to technical progress by 73/350/EEC of 7.11.73	Directive (OJ 22.11.73)
Fuel tanks and rear protective devices	70/221/EEC of 20.3.70	Directive (OJ 6.4.70)
Audible warning devices	70/388/EEC of 27.7.70	Directive (OJ 10.8.70)
Atmospheric pollution by motor vehicles with positive ignition (spark ignition) engines	70/220/EEC of 20.3.70	Directive (OJ 6.4.70)
	COM(74)207 FINAL	Commission proposal for technical progress adaptation of Directive
Steering equipment	70/311/EEC of 8.6.70	Directive (OJ 18.6.70)
Access (doors, running boards)	70/387/EEC of 27.7.70	Directive (OJ 10.8.70)
Suppression of radio interference	72/245/EEC of 20.6.72	Directive (OJ 6.7.72)
Lighting and light signalling equipment (including direction indicators)	COM(73)2024 FINAL	Commission proposal
Windscreen washers	COM(68)633 FINAL	Commission proposal withdrawn. Further work in hand
Field of vision and windscreen wipers	COM(68)633 FINAL	Commission proposal withdrawn. Further work in hand
Rear-view mirrors	71/127/EEC of 1.3.71	Directive (OJ 22.3.71)
Electrical connections between vehicles and their trailers	COM(68)633 FINAL	Commission proposal withdrawn. Further work in hand
Speedometers	Work started but no papers yet available	
Electrical circuits	Work not started	
Maximum speed (method determination)	Work not started	

Subject	Reference of Directive or latest draft received	Status (where applicable)
Braking devices	71/320/EEC of 26.7.71 Adapted to technical progress by 74/132/EEC of 11.2.74	Directive (OJ 6.9.71) Directive (OJ 19.3.74)
Safety glass	COM(72)981 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 16.11.72)
Interior fittings (interior part of the passenger compartment other than interior rear view mirrors, layout of controls, roof or sliding roof, backrest and rear part of seats)	74/60/EEC of 17.12.73	Directive (OJ 11.2.74)
Tyres	XI 591 73 Rev 2 XI/119/74	Preliminary drafts
Mechanical coupling equipment between vehicles and trailers	Work started but no papers yet available	
Anchor points for safety belts	XI/352/73 Rev 2	Preliminary draft
Atmospheric pollution by motor vehicles with diesel fuelled (compression ignition) engines	72/306/EEC of 2.8.72	Directive (OJ 20.8.72)
External projection	COM(73)2128 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 28.3.74)
Head rests	III/706/72 Rev 2	Preliminary draft
Anti-theft devices	74/61/EEC of 17.12.73	Directive (OJ 11.2.74)
Strength of seats and their anchorages	COM(73) 682 FINAL COM(74)146 FINAL	Directive approved but not yet formally adopted
Behaviour of the steering mechanism in case of impact	COM(72)955 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 16.11.72)
Safety belts	XI/73/73	Preliminary drafts
Location and attachment of statutory plates and inscriptions	XI/441/73 XI/197/74 (Annex B)	Preliminary drafts
Reverse gear	Work started but no papers yet available	
De-icing	Work started but no papers yet available	
Interior fittings – identification of controls	Work not started	
Interior fittings – seats (other than strength of seats and anchorages)	Work not started	
Special provisions for public service vehicles	Work started but no papers yet available	
Special provisions for taxis	Work not started	
Special provisions for goods vehicles	Work started but no papers yet available	
Towing brackets Stands (bequille)	X1/503/73 Rev 1	Preliminary draft
Reflex reflecting devices	COM(73)2124 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 28.3.74)
Fog lights	COM(73)2123 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 28.3.74)
Trailer legs	XI/508/73 Rev 1	Preliminary draft
Tractors and agricultural machinery		
Type approval	74/150/EEC of 4.3.74	Directive (OJ 28.3.74)
Maximum speed and loading platforms	74/152/EEC of 4.3.74	Directive (OJ 28.3.74)
Sundry characteristics (total permissible laden weight; location of registration plates; fuel tanks; audible warning devices; noise levels and silencers; ballast weights)	74/151/EEC of 4.3.74	Directive (OJ 28.3.74)
Shielding of engine parts and projecting parts	XI/48/74	Preliminary draft following reconsideration of COM(68)565 FINAL
Towable load	COM(68)565 FINAL	Commission proposal
Rear-view mirrors	COM(72)282 FINAL	Directive approved but not yet formally adopted
Lighting and light signalling devices	XI/277/73	Preliminary draft
Steering equipment	COM(70)1248 FINAL	Commission proposal amending COM(68)565 FINAL
Electrical connection for supplying trailer lighting and light signalling equipment	XI/269/73	Preliminary draft
Suppression of radio interference	COM(68)565 FINAL	Commission proposal
Driver's seat	XI/49/74	Preliminary draft
Passenger seat	XI/402/73 Rev 1	Preliminary draft
Coupling between tractor and trailer	COM(68)565 FINAL	Commission proposal
Braking devices	XI1/44/73 Rev 2	Preliminary draft
Safety glass	XI/299/74 Rev 1	Preliminary draft
Atmospheric pollution	Work started but no papers yet available	
Tyres	Work not yet started	
Power take-off	Work started but no papers yet available	
Field of vision (including windscreen wipers)	COM(68)565 FINAL COM(73)2091 FINAL	Directive approved but not yet formally adopted
Location and attachment of statutory plates and inscriptions	Work started but no papers yet available	
Length, width and unladen height	Work started but no papers yet available	
Maximum authorised weight on each axle and distribution of weight between axles	Work started but no papers yet available	

Subject	Reference of Directive or latest draft received	Status (where applicable)
Maximum vertical load at coupling point	XI/509/73	Preliminary draft
Speed governor	Work started but no papers yet available	
Reverse gear	Work started but no papers yet available	
Safety cabs and frames	XI/34/973 Rev 2	Preliminary draft
Other means of protection against the weather	Work started but no papers yet available	
Location of controls	XI/44/74	Preliminary draft
Coupling hooks	Work started but no paper yet available	
Noise level at the driver's ear	COM(74)316 FINAL	Commission proposal
Measuring instruments and measures		
General Directive	71/316/EEC of 26.7.71 72/427/EEC of 19.12.72	Directive (OJ 6.9.71) Amending Directive (OJ 28.12.72)
Clinical thermometers	COM(66)124 FINAL	Commission proposal
Medium precision weights	71/317/EEC of 26.7.71	Directive (OJ 6.9.71)
Measurement of the standard mass per storage volume of grain	71/347/EEC of 12.10.71	Directive (OJ 25.10.71)
Calibration of ships' tanks	71/349/EEC of 12.10.71	Directive (OJ 25.10.71)
Measure of length	73/362/EEC of 19.11.73	Directive (OJ 5.12.73)
Non-automatic weighing machines	73/360/EEC of 19.11.73	Directive (OJ 5.12.73)
Electricity meters	COM(73)276 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 26.10.73)
Meters for liquids other than water	71/319/EEC of 26.7.71	Directive (OJ 6.9.71)
Meters for liquids other than water - measuring systems	XI/81/74	Preliminary draft
Meters for liquids other than water - ancillary equipment	71/348/EEC of 12.10.71	Directive (OJ 25.10.71)
Gas volume meters	71/318/EEC of 26.7.71 XI/718/73	Directive (OJ 6.9.71) Preliminary draft (technical progress amendment)
Making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids Bottles used as measuring containers	COM(72)202 FINAL	Commission proposal (29.2.72) (subsequently revised)
Cold-water meters	COM(73)595 FINAL	Commission proposal (26.10.73)
Hot-water meters	Work not yet started	
Heat meters	Work not yet started	
Road and rail tanks used as measuring containers	III/697/72 Rev 1	Preliminary draft
Taximeters	Work started but no papers yet available	
Alcohol meters	Work started but no papers yet available	
Saccharimeters	Work started but no papers yet available	
Belt weighers	COM(73)597 FINAL	Commission proposal (26.10.73)
Instruments for determining the fat content of dairy produce	Work started but no papers yet available	
Manometers	III/1919/72	Preliminary draft in abeyance. Further work in hand
Apparatus for measuring arterial pressure	Work started but no papers yet available	
Fine precision weights	74/148/EEC of 4.3.74	Directive (OJ 28.3.74)
Instruments for measuring humidity in grain	XI/86/74	Preliminary draft
Electronic devices fitted to measuring instruments	Work started but no papers yet available	
Units of measurement	71/354/EEC of 18.10.71	Directive (OJ 29.10.71)
Automatic checkweighers	III/1918/72	Preliminary draft
Making up by weight or by volume of certain pre-packaged products	COM(73)1731 FINAL	Commission proposal
Differential pressure gasmeters	Work not yet started	
Standardisation of prepackages	Work started but no papers yet available	
Fees and charges for testing gas meters	Work started but no papers yet available	
Instruments for measuring pollution	Work not yet started	
Electrical		
Electrical equipment designed for use between certain voltage limits	73/23/EEC of 19.2.73	Directive (OJ 26.3.73)
Electro-medical equipment	XI/543/73	Preliminary draft
Electro-radiological equipment	XI/590/73	Preliminary draft
Electrical equipment for use in explosive atmospheres	COM(70)1138 FINAL	Commission proposal
Suppression of radio interference from domestic equipment, portable tools and similar equipment	COM(72)853 FINAL	Commission proposal (not yet published)
Suppression of radio interference from fluorescent lamps	COM(72)853 FINAL	Commission proposal (not yet published)

Subject	Reference of Directive or latest draft received	Status (where applicable)
Suppression of radio interference from radio and television sets	COM(73)569 FINAL	Commission prposal (OJ 26.10.73)
Suppression of radio interference from industrial, scientific and medical equipment	Work started but no papers yet available	
Plugs and sockets	XI/104/74	Preliminary draft
Textiles		
Textile names	71/307/EEC of 26.7.71	Directive (OJ 16.8.71) New Commission proposal for amendment of Directive awaited
Textiles (binary mixtures)	72/276/EEC of 17.7.72	Directive (OJ 31.7.72)
Textiles (ternary mixtures)	73/44/EEC of 26.2.73	Directive (OJ 30.3.73)
Quantitative analysis of mixtures of fibres of the same chemical nature	Work started but no papers yet available	
Elimination of foreign matter	Work started but no papers yet available	
Pressure vessels		
General Directive	COM(72)1689 FINAL	Commission proposal (not yet published)
Seamless steel gas cylinders	COM(72)1689 FINAL	Commission proposal (not yet published)
Aerosols	COM(73)415 FINAL XI/4/74	Commission proposal Proposed adaptation
Seamless aluminium gas cylinders	III/2209/72 Rev 1	Preliminary draft
Welded steel gas cylinders	III/230/73	Preliminary draft
Dangerous substances and preparations		
General (classification, packaging and labelling)	67/548/EEC of 27.6.67 73/146/EEC of 21.5.73 COM(73)1140 FINAL XI/586/73	Directive (OJ 16.8.67) Amending Directive (OJ 25.6.73) Commission amending proposal (OJ 31.10.73) Draft modification of Commission amending proposal
Pesticides	III/232/73	Preliminary draft
Explosives	13269/III/70	Preliminary draft
Solvents	73/173/EEC of 4.6.73	Directive (OJ 11.7.73)
Paints, varnishes, printing inks, glues, etc	XI/248/73	Preliminary draft
Household products	III/425/72	Preliminary draft
Corrosives	Work started but no papers yet available	
Detergents	73/404/EEC of 22.11.73	Directive (OJ 17.12.73)
Anionic surface agents	73/405/EEC of 22.11.73	Directive (OJ 17.12.73)
Non-ionic surface agents	Work started but no papers yet available	
Detergents – toxicity	Work started but no papers yet available	
Dangerous substances – limitations on sale and use	XI/36/74	Preliminary draft
Lifts and lifting apparatus		
Wire ropes, chains and hooks	73/361/EEC of 19.11.73	Directive (OJ 5.12.73)
Lifts and lifting apparatus : General Directive	XI/179/74	Preliminary draft
Cranes	Work started but no papers yet available	
Hoists (monte-matériéux de chantier)	Work started but no papers yet available	
Conveyor-belts	Work started but no papers yet available	
Electric passenger lifts	XI/179/74	Preliminary draft
Tools and machine tools		
General Directive	XI/216/74	Preliminary draft
Grinding wheels and grinding machines	Work started but no papers yet available	
Woodworking machines	Work started but no papers yet available	
Crystal glass		
Crystal glass	69/493/EEC of 15.12.69	Directive (OJ 29.12.69)
Oil pipelines		
Oil pipelines (construction)	COM(68)640 FINAL	Work on this proposal suspended in favour of an initial standardisation in CEN
Precious metals		
Precious metals	XI/82/74	Preliminary draft
Gas appliances		
General	XI/129/73 Rev 3	Preliminary draft
Instantaneous water heaters	Work started on consideration of latest CEN document	
Cookers	Work started but no papers yet available	
Central heating boilers	Work started but no papers yet available	
Gas governers	Work started but no papers yet available	
Independent space heaters	Work started but no papers yet available	
Fertilisers		
General	COM(71)1500 FINAL COM(73)1734 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 15.3.72) Commission amending proposal
Sampling and methods of analysis	10.388/III/67 Rev 1	Preliminary draft
Nitrate of ammonia	Work started but no papers yet available	
Gas pipelines		
Gas pipelines (construction)	18.871/III/69	Work on this proposal suspended in favour of initial standardisation in CEN
Fuels		
Lead in petrol	COM(73)2050 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 31.174)
Sulphur in gas oils	COM(74)158 FINAL	Commission proposal
Rubber and plastic		
Reinforced plastic tanks for carriage of dangerous substances by road	COM(71)1446 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 15.3.72)
Construction materials		
Cement	Work started but no papers yet received	
Ceramic tiles	Work started but no papers yet received	
Glass	Work started but no papers yet received	
PVC pipes	Work started but no papers yet received	
Fire resistance	Work started but no papers yet received	
Construction equipment		
General	XI/362/74	Preliminary draft
Mopeds		
Type approval	COM(72)1645 FINAL COM(73)1732 FINAL	Commission proposal Commission amending proposal
Motor cycles	Work not yet started	
Non-military arms and ammunition	Work started but no papers yet received	
Firefighting equipment	Work not yet started	
Metal scaffolding	Work not yet started	
Packaging materials	Work not yet started	
Educational materials	Work not yet started	
Equipment using ionising rays	Work started but no papers yet received	
Protective clothing and equipment	Work not yet started	
Pleasure boats	Work started but no papers yet received	
Cosmetics		
Cosmetic products	COM(72)851 FINAL COM(73)1733 FINAL	Commission proposal (OJ 23.12.72) Commission amending proposal
Leaching of substances into foodstuffs		
General	524/VI/74	Preliminary draft
Materials and objects in glass intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	687/VI/73	Preliminary draft
Materials and objects in stainless steel intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	688/VI/73	Preliminary draft
Lead and cadmium in tableware	XI/121/74	Preliminary draft
Materials and objects in plastics intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	Work started but no papers yet available	
Toys	Work started but no papers yet available	

EEC – your questions answered

Below we publish answers to some of the questions of general interest which businessmen put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit in the past month.

The Unit was set up specifically to assist firms which are finding difficulty in obtaining information on a particular aspect of trade with other Member States of the Community. It can be contacted by a telephone call to 01-222 7877, Ext. 4301 (six lines), or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Q. I understand that in the course of policy making the Commission consults industrial, commercial and trade interest groups. What are these groups and how does the UK participate in them?

A. Although there is no formal obligation upon the Commission, it frequently consults trade and industrial interests on matters of mutual concern. The usual channel is through European trade or commercial associations and industrial federations. These so-called sectoral organisations not only examine Commission proposals but also put forward their own views on matters which affect their trade or industry. Their membership is usually made up of the national trade and industrial associations or federations of each of the Member States of the Community. Often the member association of a particular country will act as host to the European body. The Commission has published a list of sectoral organisations, including those UK organisations that have joined relevant European Associations. The list, priced £2.10, is available from HMSO under the title of *List of joint organisations set up by the industrial trade and commercial associations and services in connection with the European Communities*. A fuller explanation of how commerce and industry can influence the Commission was given in an article in *European Community Commentary* No. 4, pp. 1-2.

Q. I am the Company lawyer of a large firm in the engineering industry. Where can I obtain information on the European Court of Justice and its decisions?

A. There are several sources of information available to judges, advocates and practising lawyers. The Commission publishes a bulletin—*Information on the Court of Justice of the European Communities*—which records important decisions of the Court, Community legislation, national decisions and legal conventions, and which is now available in English. Three or four issues appear each year at irregular intervals. The most recent in the series, No. 14, may be obtained, free of charge, from the European Communities Press and Information Service, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities produces several useful publications:

1. *Reports of Cases before the Court (Receuil de la Jurisprudence de la Cour)*. Volumes *1954-1972* of the *Reports* are as yet available only in French, Dutch, German and Italian. However, Volume 1973 is being published also in English. Six parts of this volume have been issued to date, covering cases before the Court up to mid-July 1973. Copies can be ordered through HMSO, the UK agents or directly from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Case Postale 1003, Luxembourg (annual subscription £10.00).

2. *List of Judgements, giving their citations, 1954-1972, Luxembourg, 1st February 1973.* The *List* is arranged in chronological order according to the date of the judgement given. It sets out the names of the parties, and the type, subject matter and language of the case, and also indicates the citation of the report of the case in French and (if available) English. Distribution of the list is limited to the selected libraries noted below and to legal bodies.

University law libraries
Aberystwyth
Birmingham
Cambridge
Durham
Exeter
Glasgow
London
  Institute of Advanced Legal Studies
  King's College
  London School of Economics
  Queen Mary
  University College
Manchester
Oxford
Queen's (Belfast)
Warwick

Other libraries
Belfast City Library
British Institute of International and Comparative Law
British Museum
Centre of European Governmental Studies (Edinburgh)
House of Lords
Inns of Court (London)
National Library of Wales (Aberystwyth)
Supreme Court (London)

3. *Proceedings of the Court of Justice of the European Communities*—a weekly summary sheet covering major judgements. It is available, free of charge, on application to the European Court of Justice, Centre Européen, Plateau de Kirchberg, Luxembourg.

The rules of procedure of the Court are published in English as a *Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Communities, Special Edition 1959-62*, and can be purchased from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1, price 21p (24½p including postage).

Q. My company regularly sends large containerised consignments to individual customers in other EEC countries. Is there any way in which I can simplify the procedure involved?

A. An exporter who consigns goods to a single destination in another EEC country by either a sealed container or vehicle would normally use the full Community Transit procedure. The Customs in Member States can, however, exempt any person satisfying certain conditions from producing at the office of departure either the goods concerned or the relevant Transit declaration. The details of this modified Community Transit procedure are laid down in *Regulation* 1226/71, which is contained in the publication *Secondary Legislation of the European Communities, volume 5, Customs Questions* (available from HMSO, price £3.79, Standard Book Number 0 11 330445 5). Applications to become an 'Approved Consignor' under this scheme should be directed to the Collector of Customs and Excise in the area from which the goods are removed for export. A trader may be considered for approval if he is either an exporter or an agent (including shipper, freight forwarder or packer) and

1. exercises physical control over goods for export and provides adequate facilities at his premises for inspection by Customs of such goods;

2. completes all Customs documentation for the consignments, in addition to the Community Transit documents;

3. consigns goods frequently under the full Community Transit procedure;

4. maintains records which are adequate for Customs control and verification purposes; and

5. provides a comprehensive guarantee.

The system outlined above does not apply to goods on which revenue duty is chargeable or which are exported using form T3L.

The Community's Business Co-operation Centre

Community firms seek British business partners

The Commission of the European Communities set up the Business Co-operation Centre last year to encourage co-operation between firms in different Member States wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the Community's markets. Co-operation is defined as the pooling of one or more activities of the partner firms; for example, in research and development, supplies, production, marketing and sales and management.

A firm seeking the Centre's help will be asked to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. Armed with this information, the Centre will then search its files for a suitable partner, and, if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate with no names mentioned a summary of the firm's requirements to the 'correspondents' which it has in every country of the Community.

It is as one of the Centre's correspondents in this country that we reproduce the latest batch of requests for co-operation below. Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the Centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, 15-71 rue Archimède, B-1040 Brussels. The Centre makes no charge for its services. All inquiries are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties.

Reference BRE/1072/353
German manufacturer of car accessories (metal rearview mirrors, bolt-on exhaust units, ashtrays, etc) supplying motor manufacturers and the automobile accessory trade; 200 employees; turnover DM12 million; seeks:

1 co-operation in research, know-how, production and marketing with similar British and French companies employing about 100 persons;
2 Irish, British or French partner, same or related branch, for joint setting-up of production unit in Ireland or France.

Languages: German, English, French.

Reference BRE/1109/312
German firm producing shaped, centrifugal and continuous castings in copper and aluminium alloys; supplier to the vehicle, machine, mechanical-engineering, and appliances industry; staff of 350; well-organised management; turnover DM15 million; seeks co-operation on as comprehensive a basis as possible with firm approximately three times as large operating in the metallurgical sector in the UK, France or the Benelux countries; amalgamation or majority holding for associate considered.
Languages: German, English.

Reference BRE/1435/50
German building and civil-engineering firm; annual turnover DM300 million; French subsidiary (civil engineering sector, construction of buildings, factories, tunnels) with 810 employees and F70 million turnover; seeks, on behalf of its subsidiary, co-operation or merger with British and/or French building company—or possibly a contractor or real-estate investment fund—with a view to extending its activities in Southern France; subsequent co-operation with German parent company possible.
Languages: German, English, French.

Reference BRE/2152/311
The forge and foundry division of a Luxembourg iron and steel firm specialising in high-alloy steels, steel castings (rough and machined), steel forgings (rough and machined), bronze and other copper-base alloys, rolls for hot- and cold-rolling mills, Linz-Donau oxygen lances for converters, crushers, sifters and conveyors; machine shops capable of handling grades up to IT6; engineering office for design of crushing and sifting plant and equipment for bulk transport of goods, and at present developing nuclear hardware; turnover F550 million; 785 employees; seeks EEC partners of comparable size whose activities include the medium-heavy mechanical engineering sector, machines for the mining industries or initial processing of materials, with a view to co-operation in research and development and marketing in order to penetrate overseas markets.
Languages: German, French, English, Italian

Reference BRE/2303/31
Irish company; turnover £1 million; 200 employees; manufacturing nails, screws and rivets meeting almost entire requirement of Irish market; also manufacturing woven wire cloth and fine weaving wire (10 per cent of total turnover) partially exported to USA, UK and Canada; requires partner in other EEC countries, same branch and employing 200 to 500 people, with a view to maximising production by line specialisation and increasing sales, both within the Community and non-European markets; no form of co-operation excluded; financial links open to discussion.
Languages: English, German.

Reference BRE/2127/316
German manufacturer of steel boilers, hot-water boilers, coal and oil copper bath furnaces; exclusive sales of cast gas-fired boilers, aluminium radiators and plate-type heating elements; turnover DM10 million; 100 employees; sales (handled by 20 agencies at home and abroad) to the sanitary and central heating trade, engineering offices, housing companies, authorities and architects; wishes to extend its range of goods by collaboration in production (including production of articles from steel and non-ferrous sheet), marketing and sales with partners of the same size or larger in the sanitary and central-heating sectors in France, Italy, Belgium, the UK, Luxembourg or the Netherlands prepared to take a holding in the German company (even a majority holding or possibly a complete takeover).
Languages: German, English, French.

Reference BRE/2357/342
French firm; turnover F85 million; 650 employees; five specialist departments (steel works; welding; electrical equipment for transport and industrial appliances; wheels for tractors and agricultural vehicles; chrome plating); seeks for its electrical equipment department (F21 million turnover; 110 employees; products—insulators, power feeders, etc, for transport and lifting equipment) co-operation with either an English or German firm whose products complement its own; co-operation can be based on specialisation of products, sharing of selling and marketing organisations, research and development; partner company should be of comparable size and financially sound.
Languages: French, English, German.

Reference BRE/2356/32
French firm; wheels department (see **Reference BRE/2357/342** above) wants to co-operate with German, English or Italian firm whose products complement its own (agricultural or public works); co-operation can be based on mutual supply, specialisation of products, sharing of selling and marketing organisations; size of no importance, but company must be financially sound.
Languages: French, English, German.

Reference BRE/2119/47
Italian firm; with papermill (turnover 6,000 million lire; 230 employees), and paper-converting department not based on the papermill's production (turnover 1,700 million lire; 80 employees); seeks for the paper-converting department (which processes and distributes non-specialised school and office articles) a partner in the UK or Benelux 1 to 3 times its size, with good products for the office market and not represented on the production level in Italy, for a co-operation which should develop, first from the Italian firm acting as an importer, and second from being a processor under licence, to a joint venture between the two partners for production and sales in Italy.
Languages: Italian, English, French.

Reference BRE/1083/353
Italian company manufacturing and marketing body parts for motor vehicles and manufacturing plastic mouldings for the automobile industry under contract; turnover 505 million lire; 30 employees; seeks co-operation in exchange of know-how with an EEC firm manufacturing car-body components from sheet metal and/or plastic; co-operation could extend to creation of a joint subsidiary; partner must have products of its own design already being supplied, or capable of being supplied, to the automobile industry as standard production parts.
Languages: Italian, French, English.

Publications on the European Communities

Listed below are official publications on European Communities' matters issued during the period 1 April-14 June 1974. All can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Orders, quoting the Standard Book Number (which in the list is given in brackets after each title), should be sent to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. The price inclusive of postage is given in parenthesis at the end of each reference.

Parliamentary publications

Cmnd. 5556. European Communities No. 3 (1974). Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway with Final Act and Exchanges of Letters. Brussels. 14 May 1973. (The Agreement entered into force on 1 July 1973.) ((0 10 155560 2). 140 pp. £1.20 (£1.27).

Cmnd. 5593. European Communities No. 8 (1974). Renegotiation of the Terms of Entry into the European Economic Community. Text of a Statement delivered by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in the Council of Ministers of the European Communities in Luxembourg on 1 April 1974. (0 10 155930 5). 8 pp. 9p (12p).

Cmnd. 5620. European Communities No. 7 (1974). Trade Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (with Declarations and Exchanges of Letters). Luxembourg, 26 June 1973. (The Agreement entered into force on 1 September 1973.) (0 10 156200 4). 12 pp. 11p (14p).

Cmnd. 5621. Agreement extending the period of the Trade Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia signed at Brussels on 19 March 1970. Brussels, 30 April 1973. (The agreement entered into force on 1 May 1973.) (0 10 156210 1). 4 pp. 6p (9p).

Cmnd. 5632. Meteorology. Miscellaneous No. 21 (1974). Convention establishing the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts with Protocol on Privileges and Immunities. Brussels, 11 October 1973-11 April 1974. (The Convention and Protocols are not in force.) (0 10 156320 5). 28 pp. 20p (23p).

First Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the European Communities. (0 10 405575 8). 4 pp. 6p (9p).

House of Commons. First Report from the Select Committee on European Secondary Legislation etc; together with the Proceedings of the Committee. Session 1974. (0 10 217175 0). 16 pp. 14p. (17p).

Publications sold but not published by HMSO

Commission of the European Communities

Official Journal of the European Communities. Special Edition, Second Series (English). (There will be 10 volumes published in this Special Edition, Second Series. The EEC will announce a global price later. Customers who wish to place a waiting order for the complete set may do so and will be advised of the price later.)

- **Vol. 1 External Relations (Part 1).** January 1974. (0 11 933868 8). 416 pp. £3.15 (£3.37).
- **Vol. 1 External Relations (Part 2).** January 1974. (0 11 933869 6). 382 pp. £2.71 (£2.93).
- **Vol. 9 Resolutions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Member States.** (0 11 933887 4). 68 pp. 42p (47½p).

Investment in the Community Coalmining and Iron and Steel Industries. (Summary Report on the Investment Surveys 1966-73 in the six countries of the original Community.) January 1974. (0 11 933896 3). 56 pp. £1.44 (£1.51).

Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1973. (Addendum to the **7th General Report on the Activities of the European Communities.**) (0 11 933895 5). 244 pp. £1.39 (£1.52).

Supplements to the Bulletin:

- **Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 14/73. Scientific and Technological Policy Programme.** (0 11 933892 0). 48 pp. 23p. (28½p).
- **Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 15/73. Multinational Undertakings and the Community.** (0 11 933893 9). 32 pp. 12p (16p).
- **Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Communities 16/73. Common Transport Policy: Objectives and Programme.** (0 11 933894 7). 24 pp. 12p(16p).

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OECD Economic Surveys:

- **Ireland.** March 1974. (92 64 11178 6). 52 pp. 50p (55½p).
- **Switzerland.** March 1974. (92 64 11165 4). 74 pp + 2 folded inserts. 50p (55½p).
- **Norway.** March 1974. (92 64 11180 8). 66 pp. + 2 folded inserts. 50p (55½p).
- **Spain.** April 1974. (92 64 11198 0). 60 pp. + 2 folded inserts. 50p (55½p).

Annual Reports on Competition Policy in OECD Member Countries. No. 1, May 1974. (92 64 11189 1). 100 pp. £1.50. (£1.57).

Economic Indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the Member States of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

An extensive bibliography – 'Sources of Statistics: 2. The European Economic Community' – which lists publications in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade, is obtainable on request to the library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (Tel: 01-248 5757, ext. 368). 'Statistical News' No. 21 (May 1973), published by the Central Statistical Office, contains a selected bibliography of statistical publications of the Commission of the European Communities.

TABLE 1 **Industrial Production** (Excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxem-bourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy[4]	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC[3,4]	*United States*	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.8	0.3	23.5	36.5	0.7	12.6	4.4	18.2	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.5	0.1	9.0	14.0	0.2	4.9	1.7	7.0	36.4	*48.4*	*13.1*
1968	88	88	84	83	90	91	81	96	87	*99*	*74*
1969	97	100	94	94	97	94	91	100	95	*104*	*88*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	104	102	105	100	107	100	102	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	115	106	109	104	116	102	108	*108*	*110*
1973	115	115	124	114		114	125	111	116	*118*	*130*
1972 1st quarter	107	97	112	103	107	103	113	97	105	*103*	*106*
2nd quarter	109	102	113	105	106	104	115	102	107	*107*	*108*
3rd quarter	107	104	116	105	109	102	116	103	108	*109*	*111*
4th quarter	114	108	120	110	114	108	120	106	112	*113*	*116*
1973 1st quarter	115	115	121	113	121	105	122	110	114	*115*	*124*
2nd quarter	114	112	123	114	119	115	123	110	116	*117*	*128*
3rd quarter	114	114	126	113	118	118	125	111	117	*119*	*131*
4th quarter	118	120	126	116	121	117	129	110	118	*119*	*135*
1974 1st quarter		125	127	115		119	130	104		*117*	*132*
1973 January	115	109	120	112		105	122	108	113	*115*	*122*
February	115	116	121	116		104	123	111	115	*116*	*122*
March	114	118	120	113		104	121	112	114	*116*	*127*
April	114	111	119	114		112	123	109	114	*116*	*126*
May	117	113	125	113		114	123	109	116	*117*	*129*
June	112	112	125	114		118	123	110	117	*118*	*129*
July	113	115	127	109		120	122	111	116	*119*	*129*
August	115	114	127	115		117	126	110	116	*119*	*131*
September	114	115	124	116		118	127	111	118	*119*	*132*
October	116	116	126	115		118	130	112	118	*119*	*135*
November	123	126	127	116		117	129	111	119	*119*	*136*
December	116	117	123	116		117	128	106	117	*119*	*134*
1974 January	129	125	128	114		124	130	100	116	*118*	*134*
February	126	128	128	117		119	131	104	118	*117*	*133*
March		121	126	114		115 (e)	131	107	117	*116*	*131*
April			126 (e)					109		*117*	
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+5.1	+4.2	+0.5	−0.6	+1.7	+1.7	+1.3	−0.6	−0.3	*−1.7*	−0.6
On a year earlier	+7.2	+9.0	+5.6	+1.2	+6.1	+14.4	+7.1	−3.6	+2.9	*+0.6*	−7.1

[1]Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture.
[2]Mining and manufacturing only.
[3]Excluding Denmark.
[4]Revised figures for Italy from beginning of 1973.
(e) Estimated

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

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TABLE 2 **Unemployment** seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1,2]	Den-mark[1,3]	France[2,4]	German F.R.[5]	Ireland[1]	Italy[6]	Nether-lands[2,5]	United Kingdom[5]	*United States*[6]	*Japan*[7]
1968	147	163	97	218	88	113	147	95	*69*	*108*
1969	120	129	85	120	86	108	115	94	*69*	*104*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	100	125	129	126	100	100	135	129	*122*	*111*
1972	123	126	145	166	114	114	235	142	*118*	*119*
1973	130	85	150	199	104	109	239	102	*105*	*107*
1972 1st quarter	114	139	142	143	114	106	207	149	*123*	*119*
2nd quarter	120	140	146	181	114	113	254	147	*120*	*120*
3rd quarter	125	124	148	192	117	121	265	141	*118*	*122*
4th quarter	130	101	145	176	114	117	237	132	*113*	*117*
1973 1st quarter	125	41	140	141	107	107		117	*108*	*110*
2nd quarter	127	107	144	187	103	133		106	*106*	*108*
3rd quarter	132	101	158	214	106	100		99	*105*	*108*
4th quarter	133	92	161	254	102	96		86	*104*	*102*
1974 1st quarter	130	54	164	258	102	86		96	*115*	*106*
1973 January	125	50	141	131	110	107	241	124	*107*	*111*
February	125	29	139	142	107		246	117	*109*	*108*
March	125	43	139	150	105		243	112	*107*	*110*
April	127	132	143	179	102	133	241	108	*108*	*107*
May	127	83	143	189	102		235	107	*106*	*110*
June	128	105	145	194	105		235	104	*105*	*108*
July	131	107	153	207	105	100	237	102	*103*	*107*
August	131	98	157	216	105		237	99	*103*	*110*
September	134	99	163	219	107		235	95	*108*	*106*
October	137	90	161	237	102	96	235	90	*100*	*106*
November	132	93	159	252	102		235	86	*104*	*104*
December	131	93	162	274	102		248	83	*107*	*96*
1974 January	130	78	164	228	105		270	94	*116*	*105*
February	130	39	164	252	105	86	267	97	*116*	*105*
March	130	46	162	295	102		270	96	*113*	*107*
April	132	108	162	385			265	96	*111*	
May				410				99		
Rate %	2.4	1.0	2.0	2.2	3.7	2.7	2.6	2.2	*5.2*	*1.0*
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	+0.4	+2.9	+0.9	+13.9	+0.7	−10.0	+6.6	+10.0	*+4.3*	*+3.6*
On a year earlier	+3.7	−4.9	+16.1	+110.1	−4.4	−19.6	+9.8	−14.3	*+5.1*	*−3.7*

Note: Figures of total unemployment and unemployment rates are very sensitive to the particular measures used and the sources from which they are obtained. The figures in this table to a large extent reflect the different administrative systems and social-security provisions of the countries concerned.

[1] Insured unemployed. [2] Change of basis during period. [3] Monthly data are weekly averages. [4] Unfilled applications. [5] Registered unemployed.
[6] Based on results of sample survey. [7] Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries.
[8] Numbers in latest month available as % of total employees (UK) and of total labour force (others). (e) estimated. Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 3 **Exports (fob)** Special trade.[1] seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United King-dom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1968	8,160	2,580	12,708	24,840	792	10,188	8,340	15,348	82,956	*34,416*	*12,972*
1969	10,068	2,952	15,024	29,052	888	11,724	9,960	17,520	97,200	*37,992*	*15,984*
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,612	4,332	25,777	46,187	1,603	18,576	16,386	24,340	152,813	*49,667*	*28,511*
1973	22,330(e)	6,121	36,115	67,622	2,122	22,024(e)	22,915(e)	30,525	209,774(e)	*71,465*	*36,786*
1972 1st quarter	3,582	1,056	5,913	11,025	369	4,368	3,945	6,044	36,302	*12,045*	*6,675*
2nd quarter	3,821	1,085	6,337	11,472	385	4,487	4,149	6,378	38,114	*11,676*	*6,656*
3rd quarter	3,919	1,055	6,445	11,270	413	4,556	4,025	5,389	37,072	*12,529*	*7,261*
4th quarter	4,290	1,136	7,082	12,420	436	5,165	4,267	6,529	41,325	*13,505*	*7,891*
1973 1st quarter	4,721	1,322	7,630	14,074	467	4,279	5,573	6,865	44,931	*15,692*	*8,266*
2nd quarter	5,273	1,409	8,665	16,106	509	5,170	5,872	7,672	50,676	*16,817*	*8,752*
3rd quarter	6,302	1,729	9,931	18,849	547	6,212	6,123	8,059	57,751	*18,523*	*9,336*
4th quarter	5,933	1,661	9,889	18,478	599	6,379	6,314 (e)	7,929	56,416 (e)	*20,433*	*10,432*
1974 1st quarter		1,748	10,627 (e)	20,674 (e)	585	6,362		8,317		*22,604*	*11,225* (e)
1973 January	1,370	396	2,432	4,606	132	1,445	1 759	2,211	14,351	*5,189*	*2,564*
February	1,612	472	2,540	4,776	164	1,603	2,003	2,331	15,501	*5,110*	*3,064*
March	1,739	454	2,658	4,692	171	1,231	1,811	2,323	15,079	*5,393*	*2,638*
April	1,761	419	2,673	5,122	162	1,454	1,793	2,530	15,914	*5,607*	*2,909*
May	1,740	494	2,891	5,550	172	1,685	2,027	2,459	17,018	*5,518*	*2,920*
June	1,772	496	3,101	5,434	175	2,031	2,052	2,683	17,744	*5,692*	*2,923*
July	2,007	593	3,369	6,008	179	2,147	2,069	2,652	19,024	*5,895*	*3,167*
August	2,170	485	3,228	6,456	185	1,966	1,960	2,660	19,110	*5,996*	*2,960*
September	2,125	651	3,334	6,385	183	2,098	2,094	2,747	19,617	*6,632*	*3,209*
October	2,102	563	3,311	6,766	201	2,054	2,259 (e)	2,653	19,909 (e)	*6,510*	*3,280*
November	1,885	532	3,394	6,474	186	1,958	2,148 (e)	2,703	19,274 (e)	*6,907*	*3,689*
December	1,946	566	3,184	5,239	212	2,367	1,912 (e)	2,573	17,999 (e)	*7,026*	*3,463*
1974 January	1,943	531	3,412	6,981	178	1,860	2,221 (e)	2,442	19,568 (e)	*7,375*	*3,578*
February		609	3,515	6,709	200 (e)	2,162		2,850		*7,591*	*3,767*
March		608 (e)	3,700 (e)	6,984 (e)	207 (e)	2,340 (e)		3,025		*7,638*	*3,880* (e)
April		580 (e)	3,774 (e)	6,966 (e)	201 (e)	2,633 (e)		3,280		*8,234*	*4,295* (e)
May								3,344		*7,630*	*5,602* (e)
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	−9.7	+10.3	+10.0	+10.5	+5.6	+15.4	−0.6	+22.7	−5.3	*+6.9*	*+23.3*
On a year earlier	+35.6	+33.6	+39.6	+41.6	+22.3	+66.4	+34.5	+32.0	+30.3	*+42.3*	*+62.7*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+0.1	+5.1	+13.5	+9.6	+4.8	+18.1	+8.3	+17.9	+0.1	*+6.9*	*+19.9*
On a year earlier	+25.6	+32.8	+44.6	+24.5	+28.4	+83.4	+17.6	+33.7	+14.5	*+42.3*	*+49.5*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
* All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated.
Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.

TABLE 4 Imports (cif) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States[2,3]*	*Japan[2]*
1968	8,304	3,216	13,980	20,148	1,176	10,248	9,288	18,960	85,320	*33,108*	*12,984*
1969	9,984	3,804	17,388	24,924	1,416	12,444	10,992	19,956	100,908	*36,048*	*15,024*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,903	4,971	26,665	39,783	2,113	19,284	17,142	27,831	152,692	*55,800*	*23,463*
1973	21,719	7,447	37,604	54,536	27,55	27,878	24,357 (e)	38,836	215,149 (e)	*69,105*	*38,316*
1972 1st quarter	3,573	1,185	6,354	9,435	495	4,458	4,095	6,848	36,443	*13,455*	*5,400*
2nd quarter	3,630	1,136	6,454	9,997	511	4,610	4,234	6,954	37,526	*13,200*	*5,456*
3rd quarter	3,721	1,301	6,606	9,836	511	4,895	4,233	6,530	37,633	*14,056*	*5,955*
4th quarter	3,979	1,349	7,251	10,515	596	5,321	4,580	7,499	41,090	*15,089*	*6,652*
1973 1st quarter	4,704	1,570	7 922	11,845	618	5,355	5,416	8,275	45,706	*16,173*	*7,355*
2nd quarter	5,241	1,753	9,004	13,168	657	6,700	5,687	9,426	51,636	*16,587*	*9,269*
3rd quarter	5 896	2,026	10,358	14,553	744	7,837	6,717	10,238	58,369	*17,616*	*10,122*
4th quarter	5,893	2,098	10,319	14,970	735	7,986	6,537 (e)	10,895	59,436 (e)	*18,729*	*11,570*
1974 1st quarter		2,286	11,317 (e)	15,224 (e)	802 (e)	9,385 (e)		12,032		*21,566*	*12,609*
1973 January	1,543	546	2,515	3,704	196	1,675	1,732	2,583	14,494	*5,260*	*2,254*
February	1,555	506	2,649	4,144	207	2,124	1,823	2,685	15,693	*5,512*	*2,445*
March	1,606	518	2,758	3,997	215	1,556	1,861	3,007	15,519	*5,401*	*2,656*
April	1,639	503	2,662	4,031	209	1,906	1,878	2,884	15,712	*5,273*	*2,881*
May	1,791	620	3,102	4,514	214	2,190	1,892	3,253	17,576	*5,580*	*3,093*
June	1,811	630	3,240	4,623	234	2,604	1,917	3,289	18,348	*5,734*	*3,290*
July	1,902	676	3,539	4,844	263	2,393	2,375	3,294	19,286	*5,767*	*3,256*
August	1,967	678	3,383	4,904	246	2,593	2,093	3,468	19,332	*5,956*	*3,587*
September	2,027	672	3,436	4,805	235	2,851	2,249	3,476	19,751	*5,893*	*3,279*
October	2,097	739	3,614	5,403	257	2,599	2,332	3,746	20,787	*5,863*	*3,621*
November	1,975	737	3,432	5,112	254	2,205	2,157	3,625	19,497	*6,720*	*3,840*
December	1,824	622	3,273	4,455	224	3,182	2,048	3,526	19,151	*6,146*	*4.109*
1974 January	2,042	784	3.510	5,116	233	2,393		3,497		*6,506*	*3,426*
February		743	3,823	4,738 (e)	255 (e)	3,372 (e)		4,101		*7,390*	*4,249*
March		759	3,984 (e)	5,370 (e)	314 (e)	3,620 (e)		4,434		*7,845*	*4,369*
April		788	4,279 (e)	5,119 (e)	337 (e)	4,069 (e)		4,557		*8,107* (e)	*5,272* (e)
May								4,833		*8407* (e)	*4,851* (e)
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	−4.1	+6.9	+18.3	+3.7	−27.4	+42.2	−2.7	+24.3	+1.8	*+21.7*	*+27.5*
On a year earlier	+37.7	+50.0	+49.9	+15.1	+43.3	+98.0	+42.7	+51.2	+44.6	*+49.5*	*+74.4*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	+6.4	+2.3	+22.1	−9.9	+26.4	+45.5	+1.0	+19.5	+7.4	*+21.7*	*+23.9*
On a year earlier	+27.5	+49.1	+55.3	+10.0	+50.5	+118.2	+22 2	+50.9	+29.4	*+49.5*	*+60.3*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] *fob.* [4] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies
* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated. Source: United Kingdom; Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 5 Balance of Payments on Current Account

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxembourg	Denmark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	28	−216	−1,059	2,726	− 57	2,627	65	− 682	3,432	*− 482*	*1,048*
1969	74	−410	−1,798	1,609	−190	2,339	31	1,068	2,723	*−1,036*	*2,119*
1970	715	−544	− 152	731	−185	762	−518	1,661	2,470	*355*	*1,970*
1971	1,004	−422	525	317	205	1,570	−234	2,588	5,143	*−2,893*	*5,797*
1972	1,136	− 65	285	397	−162	1,451	1,051	221	4,314	*−8,689*	*6,623*
1973	1,082 (e)	−458		2,891		−2,526	1,719 (e)	−3,569		*3,042*	*−52*
1972 1st quarter	279	− 39	− 324	− 52		607	5	− 73		*−1,853*	*958*
2nd quarter	215	56	445	−125		699	267	476		*−2,473*	*1,212*
3rd quarter	235	− 36	− 3	−485		577	382	355		*−3,331*	*2,084*
4th quarter	407	− 46	167	1,060		−433	397	173		*−1,032*	*2,369*
1973 1st quarter	345	−147	− 191	613		−914	304	− 353		*62*	*482*
2nd quarter	226	−179	426	614		−839	632	− 476		*− 301*	*−402*
3rd quarter	200	69	−432	863		−330	− 17	− 722		*− 516*	*115*
4th quarter	311 (e)	−201		961		−443	800 (e)	−1,572		*3,797*	*−255*
1974 1st quarter								−2,232			

Source: UK: Central Statistical Office. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics

TABLE 6 Export Unit Values of Manufactures

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Netherlands[1]		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1968	91	91	96	85	88	96	92	92	95	95	90	90	*91*	*90*	*90*
1969	95	95	97	90	92	93	95	95	97	97	93	93	*95*	*95*	*95*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	101	98	106	106	108	103	106	107	107	103	110	109	*102*	*104*	*101*
1972	115	101	116	107	119	104	115	107	117	105	122	117	*105*	*115*	*98*
1973											130	127	*113*	*141*	*106*
1972 1st quarter	113	100	114	105	118	104	114	106	118	106	123	114	*104*	*112*	*96*
2nd quarter	117	103	114	105	118	104	114	106	117	105	125	116	*105*	*115*	*98*
3rd quarter	114	100	116	107	122	107	116	107	117	105	121	118	*104*	*116*	*99*
4th quarter	116	103	118	108	119	104	116	108	118	106	117	119	*106*	*119*	*102*
1973 1st quarter			127	111	128	105	120	111	126	107	122	121	*107*	*125*	*96*
2nd quarter			142	113	141	106	122	116	138	108	131	124	*110*	*138*	*101*
3rd quarter			153	115	165	107	132	121	156	113	133	129	*115*	*147*	*108*
4th quarter											134	135	*119*	*154*	*118*
1974 1st quarter													*127*		
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	+1.8	+3.0	+7.7	+1.8	+17.0	+0.9	+8.2	+4.3	+13.0	+4.6	+0.8	+4.7	*+6.7*	*+4.8*	*+9.3*
On a year earlier	+8.4	+4.0	+31.9	+7.5	+35.2	Nil	+13.8	+13.1	+33.3	+7.6	+14.5	+13.5	*+18.7*	*+29.4*	*+15.7*

(e) estimated. Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A
[1] No quarterly series available for 1971.

TABLE 7 **Consumer prices** All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*[2]
1968	92	93	91	89	93	86	93	89	90	*90*	*88*
1969	96	96	94	95	96	92	95	96	94	*94*	*93*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104	105	106	105	105	109	105	108	109	*104*	*106*
1972	110	110	113	112	111	118	111	116	117	*108*	*111*
1973	118	117	124	120	119	132	123	125	128	*114*	*124*
1972 1st quarter	108	108	110	109	109	115	108	113	114	*106*	*108*
2nd quarter	109	109	112	110	110	117	109	115	116	*107*	*111*
3rd quarter	111	111	114	113	112	120	111	116	118	*108*	*111*
4th quarter	113	113	116	115	114	122	114	119	121	*109*	*113*
1973 1st quarter	115	114	118	116	116	126	117	121	123	*111*	*116*
2nd quarter	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
3rd quarter	118	117	125	121	120	133	124	126	129	*116*	*126*
4th quarter	121	119	129	124	122	137	128	129	133	*118*	*131*
1974 1st quarter	125	123	134	129	125	144	135	132	139	*122*	*145*
1973 January	115	114	117	115	116		116	121	122	*110*	*114*
February	115	114	118	116	116	126	117	121	123	*111*	*115*
March	116	115	119	116	117		119	122	124	*112*	*118*
April	116	116	120	117	118		120	124	126	*112*	*121-*
May	117	117	122	118	119	130	122	125	127	*113*	*123*
June	117	117	123	119	120		123	125	128	*114*	*123*
July	118	117	124	120	120		124	125	128	*114*	*124*
August	118	117	124	121	119	133	124	126	129	*116*	*125*
September	119	118	126	122	120		125	127	130	*117*	*129*
October	120	118	127	123	121		126	128	132	*118*	*129*
November	120	119	129	125	122	137	128	129	133	*118*	*130*
December	122	120	131	125	123		129	130	134	*119*	*135*
1974 January	123	121	134	127	124		132	130	137	*120*	*141*
February	125	124	134	129	125	144	134	131	139	*122*	*146*
March	127	124	134	131	125		138	133	141	*123*	*147*
April	128	126	135	133	126		139	135	145	*124*	*151*
May		127		134	127			136	147	*128* (e)	*154*
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	+3.8	+3.3	+2.3	+4.1	+10.7	+4.7	+5.7	+3.4	+5.5	*+3.9*	*+7.0*
On a year earlier	+9.4	+8.3	+12.9	+13.0	+7.3	+13.4	+15.3	+8.8	+14.9	*+11.3*	*+24.8*

[1] Excluding rent. [2] Change of basis during period. (e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators

TABLE 8 **Value of retail sales** Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]/ Luxembourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[6]	Netherlands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1968	83	82	88	82	83	84	80	89	*92*	*80*
1969	90	90	97	90	91	90	89	93	*95*	*89*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	107	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	120	119	110	120	125	125	121	123	*119*	*118*
1973	138	134	117	129	148	152	131	139	*134*	*145*
1972 1st quarter	115	113	107	117	119	109	116	116	*114*	*111*
2nd quarter	117	118	108	118	122	115	120	119	*117*	*114*
3rd quarter	122	121	111	123	126	118	122	125	*120*	*120*
4th quarter	126	123	110	122	132	158	124	130	*125*	*124*
1973 1st quarter	133	128	112	130	141	123	128	135	*132*	*135*
2nd quarter	134	129	116	128	147	141	130	133	*132*	*139*
3rd quarter	135	137	114	128	149	140	132	140	*136*	*147*
4th quarter	145	142	124	130	152	204	137	147	*137*	*156*
1974 1st quarter			127					148	*138*	
1973 January	132	127	112	127	137	115	126	131	*130*	*131*
February	135	128	113	133	145	113	130	135	*132*	*134*
March	134	128	111	128	143	141	127	139	*134*	*139*
April	130	128	111	129	142	142	124	131	*132*	*138*
May	135	127	120	129	148	144	130	132	*133*	*139*
June	137	134	115	127	151	142	130	136	*132*	*141*
July	133	135	114	129	143	143	129	138	*137*	*145*
August	133	137	113	128	158	123	133	139	*135*	*145*
September	139	139	116	128	147	161	132	141	*136*	*151*
October	144	141	126	132	151	183	137	146	*138*	*153*
November	144	141	120	129	155	177	135	147	*137*	*159*
December	148	143	124	129	151	253	138	149	*135*	*155*
1974 January		142	129	135	154			147	*137*	*160*
February		146	127	135	167			150	*138*	*156*
March		145	126					152	*140*	
April									*142*	
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+7.4	+1.9	+2.4	+2.6	+4.2	+45.7	+3.8	+1.4	*+2.6*	*+1.7*
On a year earlier	+15.0	+12.5	+13.4	+4.2	+15.1	+29.1	+10.5	+10.4	*+5.6*	*+20.5*

[1] Department stores. [2] Department and chainstores. [3] Excluding West Berlin. [4] Average weekly sales. [5] Excluding motor vehicles.
[6] Revised series, including chainstores.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 9 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing — Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[1, 2]	France[3]	German F.R.[7, †]	Ireland[3]	Italy[8]	Nether-lands[4]	United Kingdom†	*United States*[5]	*Japan*[6] †
1968	84	81	82	79	76	78	82	81	*90*	*73*
1969	92	90	91	87	86	83	90	89	*95*	*85*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	116	116	113	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	127	129	120	121	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973	147					154	142	143	*121*	*163*
1971 1st quarter	107	108	104	108	110	109	107	108	*104*	*108*
2nd quarter	110	114	107	109	114	111	110	111	*106*	*111*
3rd quarter	112	117	110	113	118	114	114	112	*106*	*116*
4th quarter	115	121	113	112	122	116	116	115	*108*	*117*
1972 1st quarter	122	123	115	116	127	119	122	121	*111*	*123*
2nd quarter	124	128	118	120	131	121	124	124	*112*	*129*
3rd quarter	129	130	121	122	135	126	128	127	*113*	*131*
4th quarter	132	135	126	126	140	130	129	131	*116*	*138*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	128	130	145	137	137	134	*118*	*146*
2nd quarter	144	147	133	135	157	151	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149	152	138	137	164	161	146	144	*122*	*162*
4th quarter	153			141	168	168	148	149	*124*	*175*
1974 1st quarter				142			158		*125*	*173*
% change latest three months:										
On previous three months	+2.7	+3.4	+3.7	+0.7	+2.4	+4.3	+6.8	+3.8	*+0.8*	*−1.1*
On a year earlier	+15.9	+16.9	+13.5	+9.2	+20.0	+29.2	+15.3	+13.4	*+5.9*	*+19.3*

† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Earnings in industry and construction. [2] Including bonuses. [3] Earnings. [4] Hourly earnings industry: males. [5] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker.
[6] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers. [7] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings.
[8] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked. Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank'. Reihe 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and United Kingdom ('Department of Employment Gazette').

Council business in July

On 26 June Roy Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, made the first of the monthly statements to the Commons which the Government had promised would accompany the written forecast of Council business made available to the House at the end of each month, and which would 'provide the House with a regular opportunity to seek clarification of the programmes and timing of Community work'. In his statement Mr. Hattersley said:

'At present four meetings of the Council of Ministers are proposed in July. Finance Ministers will meet on 15 July, Agricultural Ministers on 15 and 16 July, Development Ministers on 16 July and Foreign Ministers on 22 and 23 July. It is expected that the Finance Ministers will be mainly concerned with the economic situation in the Member States of the Community and joint action to be taken against inflation. They are expected to consider Commission proposals for economic and monetary measures. It is the Government's intention that before this meeting the House will have an opportunity to debate these matters, to which the Scrutiny Committee has drawn attention.

'The Agriculture Council will continue its examination of the problems which have arisen on Community markets for beef, pigmeat and wine. It is now unlikely to consider in detail the future Community sugar régime since revised proposals are not expected to be available in time.

'Development Co-operation Ministers will continue the discussion of a Community contribution to the United Nations emergency measures for those less-developed countries most hit by the oil price rises. On aid to non-associates, Ministers will consider the framework for the Community's overall aid policy, including the achievement of a satisfactory balance in the distribution of Community aid. This was called for at our initiative by the Council in April and was discussed for the first time by the Development Council on 13 June.

'The Foreign Ministers' Council will have a lengthy agenda. The Council may consider an interim report on the matters raised by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 4 June. Other important items are likely to be improvements to the Community's scheme of generalised preferences for imports from the developing countries and the Community's negotiations with Commonwealth and other developing countries eligible for association with the Community under Protocol 22 of the Treaty of Accession. The Council will be preparing for the proposed joint meeting between Community Ministers and Ministers of the Protocol 22 countries in Jamaica at the end of July.

'The Commission document on strategy for an energy policy may also be on the agenda. In addition, the Council may have a further exchange with the European Assembly on the package concerning the Assembly's budgetary powers which the Council provisionally agreed on 4 June.'

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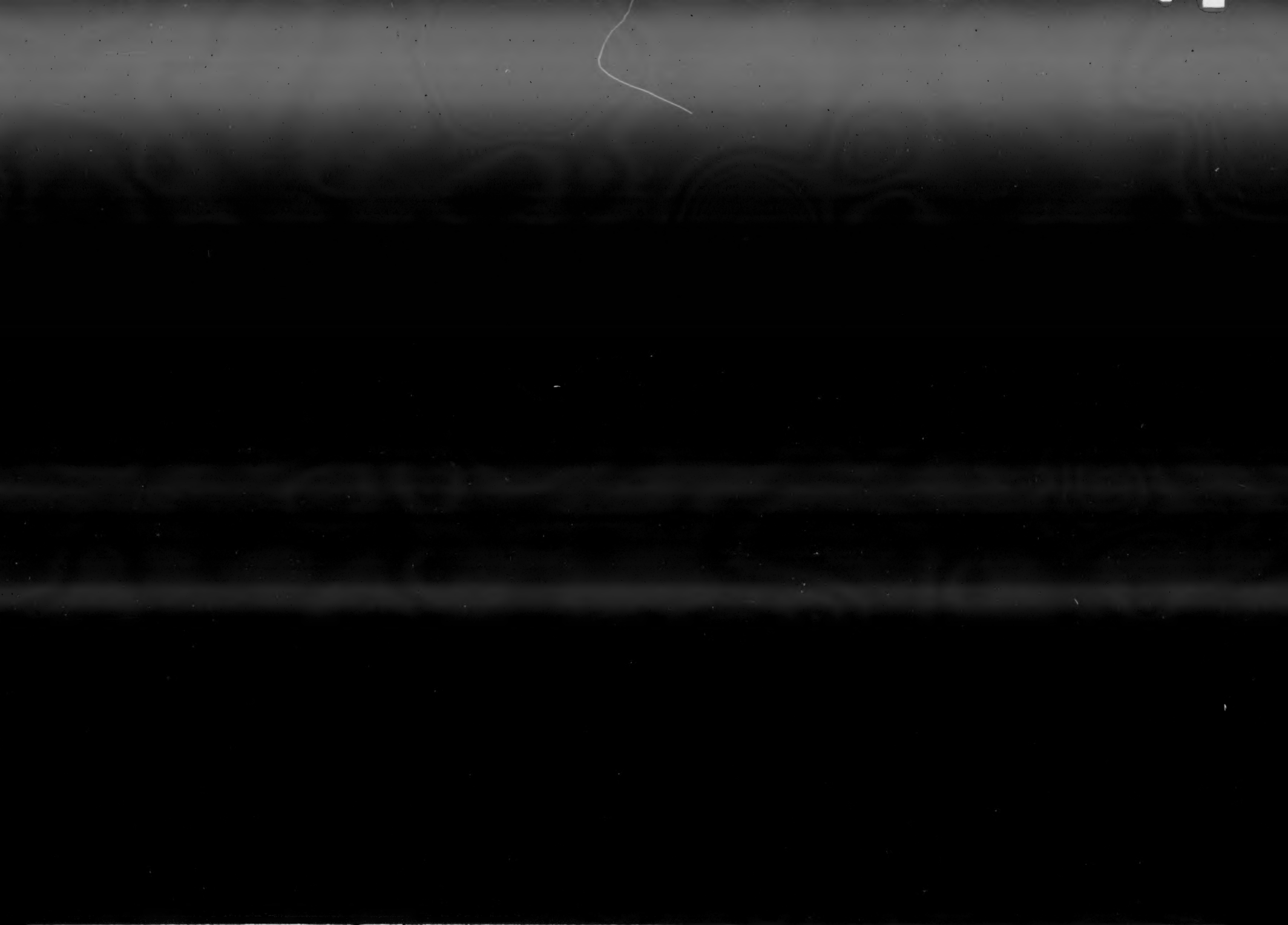
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